



KANKAKEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 11, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Baker, Clyburn, Copps and McDowell:

I am writing on behalf of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau to express our strong support for a national broadband plan that would bring Internet access to every American in the next decade. I am also writing to express our concern that proposed net neutrality regulations would undermine that important goal.

Broadband access is not a trivial issue in our region. It is a matter of economic security and hope. At 13.6 percent, Kankakee County's unemployment rate is the 4th highest of Illinois' 102 counties. Our per capita income is less than half that of the United States overall. Education, technology access, and job creation are critical to the well-being of our citizens and also dependent on a fully functioning, vibrant Internet. This is true whether you are a farmer, a trucker, a factory worker, a scientist or an entrepreneur.

Internet growth and improvement sometimes seems to be one thing we can count on in business, in schools, and in the community at large. More and more people have access. And with falling prices, more and more people are using broadband. The network on which the Internet works is one of our greatest national resources. It cannot be replaced by foreign imports, it benefits everyone, and it has fueled remarkable job growth. Of course, in these tough economic times, job "growth" has usually been replaced by job "preservation," but the Internet plays a critical role in that also.

All of these facts lead us to the conclusion that, if the government is to be involved, it should be promoting broadband access and adoption. It should not be imposing mandates that will raise prices and slow expansion. If that happens, we are confident that those of us in rural communities will feel the brunt of the impact.

We remain hopeful that there is still time to withdraw or revise this proposed rule and to focus attention on broadband expansion rather than restriction.

Sincerely,

Chad Miller, Manager

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